

Speaker Registration/Testimony

2017 JUL 10 AM 9:46
C & C of Honolulu
COUNCIL CHAMBER

Name Stephen P. Davies
Phone 808.982.7347
Email spdaies1@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-12-2017
Council/PH Committee PublicHearing
Agenda Item CB52 CD1 (2017)
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

To: Honolulu City Council
The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair

From: Stephen P. Davies
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City Council Meeting:
Wednesday, July 12, 2017, 10:00am
City Council Chamber, Honolulu Hale

RE: Council Bill 52 CD1 (2017) Minimum Real Property Tax

Written
Testimony

I am writing in opposition to CB52 CD1 (2017) Related to the Minimum Real Property Tax. The bill proposes to change the property tax exemption provided to historic residential properties by raising the annual minimum property tax for historic residences dedicated to preservation to \$1000 per year. The minimum property tax for other exemption categories would remain at the current level of \$300 annually.

Historic homes are important to Hawaii for their value as contributors to the beauty of our neighborhoods for residents and tourists, but more importantly, because we have a deep need to preserve our history and culture in these times of rapid and often superficial change.

The current minimum tax level supports historic home owners in their efforts to maintain their homes, which are obviously older and expensive to maintain. Many of these owners are older themselves (though not yet historic) and while their properties are often valuable, they may be living on limited incomes.

MISC. COM. 3441

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7/10/2017

The increase in the minimum tax will yield relatively little additional revenue to the treasury, but could do lasting and irreparable damage to the beauty and historic nature of our neighborhoods.

Therefore, I urge City Council to oppose CB 52 CD1 and leave the minimum property tax for historic homes unchanged. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Stephen P. Davies

Testimony
Attachment

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